

Benefits of the Cooperative Purchase Program

Every district gets the same price, regardless of location or amount of items ordered.

Orders are delivered as frequently as once a month (depending on how the district would like to receive orders).

Items ordered are 25-40% less expensive than the vendor's regular price.

Money spent in the program stays in Montana and supports Montana industry.

Items ordered are delivered directly to any district in Montana with no added surcharges.

The program allows districts the flexibility to purchase as much or as little as needed. There are no requirements for minimum size orders.

The program can be used as a district's primary purchasing plan, or in conjunction with other purchasing plans. There are no "mutually exclusive" agreements.

All items offered are procured in compliance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations for the School Nutrition Programs.

For more information contact:

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or visit:

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/SchoolNutrition/index.html>



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The Montana Office of Public Instruction



Cooperative Purchase Program

Providing quality food to Montana schools at a lower price.



**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

What is the Cooperative Purchase Program?

The Cooperative Food Purchasing Program, developed in 1980 for Montana districts, provides lower prices to schools on food items for use in school meals programs. This program allows small school districts to take advantage of substantial cost savings. The cost of each food item is the same to all schools in the state regardless of their size or location.

All food items on the bid are screened to ensure quality, nutritional integrity and student acceptability. There are no restrictions on the quantity or type of food the school can order.

1. A competitive bid is conducted twice a year in accordance with USDA and Montana regulation and laws. The items (food, supplies and customized products) included through the program are determined by Montana districts.

The Advisory Bid and Commodity Committee (ABC) regularly reviews and revises the items available through the OPI Cooperative Purchase Program.

2. Schools place orders online.

Nutrition information for OPI Cooperative Purchase Program food items is available for districts to help with menu planning.

<https://data.opi.mt.gov/CooperativePurchasing/Frmlogin.aspx>

3. Orders are delivered as frequently as once a month (depending on how the district would like to receive orders).

Advisory Bid and Commodity (ABC) Committee



A committee of 30 school food service managers from around the state review bid items to ensure quality, nutritional integrity and student acceptance. They work to include more foods that help schools meet higher nutritional standards, such as, foods made with whole grains and foods lower in fat and sodium. The committee also works to include as many Montana made foods as possible.